



Medi-Cal Rx Phase II – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Version 1.0

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Introduction

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document provides guidance and clarification regarding Phase II, Wave 1 (P2/W1) for Medi-Cal Rx. This document will be updated over time with additional questions and information regarding subsequent waves of Phase II.

General Information

1. When does the reinstatement of prior authorizations (PAs) for the Phase II, Wave 1 (P2/W1) 39 Standard Therapeutic Classes (STCs) go live?

P2/W1 will go into effect on January 20, 2023.

2. Which 39 STCs are being reinstated?

The following 39 STCs are being reinstated during P2/W1:

All Other Dermatologicals	Corticotropins	Other Antibiotics
Anabolics	Emollients Protectives	Other Hormones
Androgens	Erythromycins	Penicillins
Anesthetic Local Topical	Estrogens	Progesterone
Antiarthritics	Fat Soluble Vitamins	Streptomycins
Antifungals	Folic Acid Preparations	Sulfonamides
Antimalarials	General Antibacterials and Antiseptics	Systematic Contraceptives
Antiparasitics	Glucocorticoids	TB Preparations
Antiparkinson	Iodine Therapy	Tetracyclines
Anti-Ulcer Preps/ Gastrointestinal Preps	Multivitamins	Thyroid Preps
Antivirals	Muscle Relaxants	Topical Nasal and Otic Preparations
Biologicals	Non-Opioid Analgesics	Urinary Antibacterials
Cephalosporins	Ophthalmic Preparations	Vitamin K

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3. Where can I find more information about drugs that are impacted in P2/W1?

DHCS has leveraged the existing [Medi-Cal Rx Approved National Drug Code \(NDC\) List](#) to identify each drug that has a PA requirement. The following abbreviations will be found alongside each drug to indicate whether the PA requirement status has been in effect since January 1, 2022 ("AOO"); P1/W3; P2/W1; or not in effect ("N/A"). This list will be updated monthly with the appropriate phase/wave until completion of the reinstatement process.

4. Will the 39 STCs reinstated in P2/W1 require a PA for beneficiaries currently on drug therapy?

No. Reinstatement of PAs for these 39 STCs will begin **only** for beneficiaries who are starting a new drug therapy. A "new-start" is defined as a new therapy or medication not previously prescribed to the beneficiary during the 15-month lookback period. Paid claims data and historical PAs will be used for grandfathering. However, the Transition Policy will begin retiring in Phase III of Reinstatement. Pharmacy providers and prescribers are encouraged to consider covered alternatives for beneficiaries prior to the retirement of the Transition Policy. Pharmacy providers and prescribers may refer to the [Forms & Information](#) page and select the **Covered Products List** tab on the left to view all available Contract Drugs Lists (CDLs). Pharmacy providers and prescribers may also reference the [Medi-Cal Rx Approved National Drug Code \(NDC\) List](#) for additional information.

Note: Beneficiaries 21 years of age and younger are exempt from P2/W1 Reinstatement for new start therapies.

5. Will future claims, for which a beneficiary has historical claims or a current approved PA for drugs in the 39 STCs, continue to be grandfathered as part of the Transition Policy?

Yes. The Transition Policy will remain in effect until its retirement in Phase III. The retirement of the Transition Policy will occur in a series of lifts. A 30-day notice will be provided when the Transition Policy for these 39 STCs will be retired.

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6. With the exemption of PA requirements for new-starts for beneficiaries 21 years of age and younger during P2/W1, what are some other reasons a claim will deny at point of sale?

Claims will continue to deny for quantity limits, age restrictions, brand medically necessary, drug utilization review, duplicate fill, and benefit exclusions. Benefit exclusions include some physician administered drugs, as well as claims submitted using non-Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved drug manufacturers.

Refer to the *Medi-Cal Rx* [Pharmacy Reimbursable Physician Administered Drugs](#) (PADs) for the list of Medi-Cal Rx covered PADs and the [Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List – Authorized Drug Manufacturer Labeler Codes](#) for CMS approved drug manufacturers.

7. Does the reinstatement of P2/W1 affect California Children's Services (CCS)/ Genetically Handicapped Persons Program (GHPP) beneficiaries 21 years of age and younger?

No. P2/W1 reinstatement should not have any impact on beneficiaries 21 years of age and younger. However, coverage considerations for certain drugs/products may continue to require a PA for CCS/GHPP beneficiaries.

8. Will the 14-day emergency override still be applicable during P2/W1?

Yes. Refer to the *Emergency Fills* section of the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#) for more information.

Reinstatement Resources

9. How can I learn more about P2/W1?

In addition to the resources linked within this FAQ, Medi-Cal Rx offers a **Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement** web page, which is available by selecting [Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach](#) from the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#), and then selecting **Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement**. Medi-Cal Rx will also publish a *Reinstatement Spotlight* every Friday to keep stakeholders informed. *Reinstatement Spotlights* will

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be available on the [Medi-Cal Rx Bulletins & News Page](#), as well as the Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement tab on the [Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach](#) page.

10. How can I learn more about previously reinstated Phase I?

To learn more about previous phases/waves of reinstatement, Medi-Cal Rx offers the following FAQs:

- [Reinstatement Phase I, Wave I FAQ](#)
- [Reinstatement Phase I, Wave III FAQ](#).

11. How can I obtain assistance with questions about Reinstatement and Medi-Cal Rx?

You can call the Medi-Cal Rx Customer Service Center (CSC) at 1-800-977-2273, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

Pharmacy providers and prescribers can also seek assistance via the Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach team by emailing

MediCalRxEducationOutreach@magellanhealth.com.

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